

293220

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

AUG 6 2004

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

04 AUG 19 AM 11:32

1120 Vermont Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

FRA-2004-17308-4

Mr. Steven C. Beckwith
Director- Service Performance
Union Pacific Railway
1416 Dodge Street, Room 900
Omaha, NE 68179-0900

Re: Docket Number FRA-2004-17308

Dear Mr. Beckwith:

Union Pacific Railway (UP) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to grant a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Locomotive Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 229) to allow for the use of electronic signatures and electronic storage of Locomotive Inspection and Repair Record, Form # FRA F 6180.49A. This request was assigned Docket Number FRA-2004-17308.

On July 14, 2004, FRA's Railroad Safety Board, after full consideration, has determined that the waiver be granted under the following conditions:

1. This waiver is limited to locomotives owned or leased by UP and maintained by UP and their facilities.
2. The railroad is authorized to use the computer generated form instead of a standard FRA F6180.49A. This form must contain all the required information. The computer printed name of the person performing the inspections and the certifying inspections will satisfy the requirement for a signature.
3. The railroad shall identify this waiver following instructions for block nineteen and explain the scope and content under remarks.
4. The computer generated report (FRA F6180.49A) will be displayed under a transparent cover and the locomotive cab shall contain all information required by Locomotive Safety Standards.
5. The railroad will maintain an electronic database to identify those units which require periodic inspection before continuing in service.

FEDERAL RAILROAD
ADMINISTRATION
2004 AUG 12 PM 11:22
OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL

6. Employees and supervisors required to make entries on electronic FRA F6180.49A will be provided with a secure and unique electronic access code for reporting and certifying inspections and to repair records.
7. UP will provide employees with inspection packages including all required tests and procedures needed to perform required inspections and tests. If provided electronically, a means for persons performing inspections to indicate completion will be provided by assigned unique electronic access.
8. Any employee provided with a unique electronic access code for reporting and certifying inspections and repairs that is removed from service, retires, or otherwise is not employed by UP, must have their employee identification maintained until the requisite inspection or repair record is no longer required.
9. Inspection packages will include defects and repairs made to the locomotive over the previous 92 days.
10. FRA inspectors will be provided with computer generated copies of FRA F6180.49A upon request at any of the UP facilities utilizing the electronic reporting covered by this waiver.
11. This waiver expires five years from the date of this letter. At the conclusion of the five-year period, FRA reserves the right to extend the waiver if conditions warrant and the UP has made a written request for an extension to the FRA's Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance at least six months prior to the expiration date.

UP should notify FRA when the data base has been set up, and it is ready to implement the plan. FRA's contact person, Mr. George Scerbo, Motive Power and Equipment Safety Specialist, can be contacted via telephone at (202) 493-6249.

Sincerely,



Grady C. Cothen, Jr.

Acting Associate Administrator for Safety